

Application No. 10/815087
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. F02.2B-11374-US01

Amendments To The Drawings:

None.

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Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2006.

Claims 1-5 §102(b) Kieranen et al US 6,929,420

Claims 1-5 have been said to be anticipated under 35 USC § 102(b) by Kieranen et al, U.S. Patent 6,929,420 ('420). A careful reading of that reference discloses a machine for preparing road beds and the like, with the need to *contour* the surface, such as in banking a road on a turn. The machine includes a wheeled power unit for driving on the road, a boom 26 and the screed unit 34, which is pulled back toward the wheeled powered unit via the boom. The main disclosure has a simple screed which has hydraulic cylinders on each end which allows the screed to be lifted or lowered at one end relative to the other. The net effect is that the concrete being screeded may end up being banked, with one side higher than the other.

The alternative embodiment relied on in the Office Action takes the contouring assembly 239 and breaks it into pivotally connected segments 239a-c. This segmented contouring assembly 228 allows a higher degree of lateral curvature to be approximated in the contoured surface as described at column 13, lines 55-58.

The '420 patent fails to teach or even suggest a machine for casting concrete panels on an elongated casting bed having a bottom and opposing side forms. For that reason alone, the reference cannot anticipate the claims of this application. The '420 patent is to a machine that does not operate on a casting bed at all, and has no bottom and opposing side forms.

In addition, the '420 patent teaches a screed for preparing contoured surfaces, such as banked roads, with a smooth sweep in the screeding. This is accomplished either by simply lifting one end of the screed 34, or by segmenting the screeds as in Fig. 12 which are all interlinked such that the smooth contour desired in the road may be better controlled. The segments 239a-c are all linked together.

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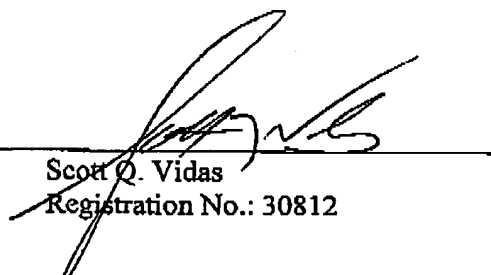
In marked contrast, the applicant's invention, as clarified by this amendment has a machine for casting concrete in a casting bed which has a screed that is segmented such that each unit can be raised or lowered independently of the other, such that the screed can be lifted in a section to avoid an obstruction in the casting bed. Nothing in the reference cited teaches or suggests a casting bed machine with the unique segmented screed as claimed. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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